

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1903

TODEP 04

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - F O R T E X T

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (INGERSOLL, ROBERT S.), BU

SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VISIT TO SOFIA

REF: SOFIA 1856

1. FOLLOWING IS TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF INGERSOLL VISIT TO BULGARIA, AFTER FIRST DISCUSSION WITH CHIEF OF PROTOCOL SEPT 4. DESPITE INTERVENING NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS, HE HAS PROMISED FLESHED-OUT PROGRAM WHICH WE WILL SUBMIT FOR APPROVAL SEPT 11.

A. APPOINTMENTS WILL BE SET UP WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV, ONE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS (PROBABLY DOYNOV, WHO DEALS WITH "ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE CAPITALIST COUNTRIES"), AND PROBABLY WITH PRIME MINISTER TODOROV. (COMMENT: APPOINTMENTS WITH THE CHIEF OF STATE USUALLY EVENTUATE IN LAST MOMENT. ONE WITH ZHIVKOV IS THUS NOT EXCLUDED, BUT WE ARE NOT SEEKING IT. IN FACT, WE ARE LEAVING IT TO BULGARIANS TO DETERMINE LEVEL OF CONVERSATIONS.)

B. FIRST EVENING WILL BE FREE OF OFFICIAL ENTERTAINMENTS. (COMMENT: THIS IS AT OUR REQUEST. WE THOUGHT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND HIS PARTY WOULD PROBABLY RATHER HAVE A RELAXED FIRST EVENING AND RESERVE ANY INVITATION TO BULGARIANS AS A RETURN ENGAGEMENT, AFTER

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IT IS CLEARER HOW MUCH THE HOSTS PUT THEMSELVES OUT AND

WHO NEEDS TO BE INVITED TO THE RESIDENCE. WE HAVE IN MIND FOR FIRST EVENING AN ENCOUNTER AT DRINKS WITH SOME OF THE MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE NATO AMBASSADORS HERE, FOLLOWED BY RELAXED EVENING WITH SOME OF OUR OWN PEOPLE; WITH OPTIONAL POSSIBILITY OF TAKING IN ALL OR PART OF AN EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE AT THE OPERA THAT NIGHT, OF "EUGENE ONEGIN").

C. MORNING SEPT 17 WILL BEGIN, AS WE ASSUME THE DEPUTY SECRETARY PREFERS, WITH VISIT TO CHANCERY AND MEETING IN OUR CONFERENCE ROOM. IT WILL BE FOLLOWED BY OFFICIAL CALLS AND DISCUSSIONS, WHICH WILL IN THEIR TURN BE FOLLOWED, ACCORDING TO PROTOCOL'S PRESENT THINKING, BY TRIP TO THE GABROVO AREA (ABOUT HALF AN HOUR'S FLIGHT) BY SPECIAL GOVERNMENT PLANE, THERE TO VISIT (A) A CHARMING RECONSTITUTED VILLAGE WITH HANDICRAFTS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY; AND (B) INDUSTRIAL PLANTS. BULGARIANS HAVE IN MIND THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY AND HIS PARTY WOULD SPEND THE NIGHT SEPT 17/18 AT A GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE, EITHER IN SCENIC SURROUNDINGS IN THE BALKAN RANGE OR ON THE BLACK SEA (ONE FURTHER HALF-HOUR'S SLIGHT AWAY). WE WILL WAIT AND SEE WHO THE HOSTS ARE TO BE, STRESSING THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY WOULD HOPE FOR SUBSTANTIVE EVENING DISCUSSIONS. DINNER WITH UNINTERESTING BULGARIAN HOSTS IN A GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE FAR FROM SOFIA COULD BE DEADLY. THIS WILL BE FURTHER DISCUSSED AND WE WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATION WHEN MORE IS KNOWN.

D. MORNING SEPT 18 RETURN TO SOFIA, LEAVING SUFFICIENT TIME FOR SIGHTSEEING AND ADDITIONAL CALLS ON GOVT OFFICIALS. IT IS ON SEPT 18 THAT AMBASSADOR WOULD HOST LUNCHEON AT THE RESIDENCE AS RETURN ENGAGEMENT FOR BULGARIAN HOSTS, WHICH SHOULD LEAVE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR 4:30 DEPARTURE BY AUSTRIAN AIRLINES. (AIRPORT IS 15 MINUTES FROM RESIDENCE.)

2. AS WE INDICATED REFTTEL, BULGARIANS HAVE UNUSUAL PROTOCOL PROBLEMS IN CONNECTION WITH CURRENT PLOVDIV FAIR, NATIONAL HOLIDAYS COMING UP NEXT WEEK, AND ALL-DAY TRIP SEPT 12 FOR RESIDENT AMBASSADORS AT INVITATION OF THE  
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CHIEF OF STATE. IT WILL THUS BE A WEEK BEFORE WE HAVE MORE DETAILED SCHEDULE FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY'S APPROVAL; BUT BULGARIAN TRACK RECORD FOR ORGANIZING VISITS OF THIS KIND IS REALLY EXCELLENT, EVEN THOUGH DETAILS GENERALLY FALL INTO PLACE ONLY IN LAST MOMENT. IF DEPUTY SECRETARY HAS ANY COMMENTS ON ABOVE OUTLINE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING THEM. (WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN MRS. INGERSOLL'S SPECIAL INTERESTS, AND THERE WILL BE SEPARATE PROGRAM

FOR HER EXCEPT DURING THE TIME WHEN ENTIRE PARTY IS  
TRAVELING INSIDE BULGARIA.)

3. STARTING NEXT WEEK, WE WILL BE SENDING "BULGARIA  
SITREPS" TO YOUR PARTY. THESE NEED NOT BE READ IM-  
MEDIATELY -- PERHAPS THEY MIGHT BE READ DURING FLIGHT  
FROM BUDAPEST TO SOFIA -- BUT SHOULD CUMULATIVELY SERVE  
TO BRING THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND HIS PARTY UP TO DATE  
ABOUT WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING HERE, IN US-BULGARIAN  
RELATIONS AND IN OTHER RESPECTS, DURING THE TIME WHEN  
HE HAS BEEN TRAVELING.  
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